Summary of Preliminary Amendment

Applicants have canceled claim 1 and have added claims 2-13. No new matter has been added and new claims 2-13 are fully supported and justified by the application as originally filed. As described below, applicants respectfully submit that new claims 2-13 are entitled to the May 27, 1993 priority date of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/066,666 ("the '666 application"), from which the present application claims priority.

New independent claims 2 and 8 in this application include features that are similar to independent claims 2 and 5 which were finally rejected in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/069,065 (Conf. No. 2990), which is the parent application of this application ("the parent application"). New independent claims 2 and 8 in this application also include features which were not previously presented in the parent application.

The parent application was abandoned in favor of this application. The Examiner's rejections in the parent application are respectfully traversed.

The Rejections in the Parent Application

Independent claims 2 and 5 in the parent application were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ullrich et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,583,937 ("Ullrich"). Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the parent application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Ullrich.

Independent claims 2 and 5 in the parent application were directed to a system and method for displaying a video clip for a television program. Independent claims 2 and 8 of the present application are similar to claims 2 and 5 of the parent application. However, independent claims 2 and 8 of the present application further specify that the video clip is displayed upon a user selection of a "television program listing" from a television program guide displayed on a display.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ullrich refers to a system that uses a plurality of video program players 17 to broadcast pre-recorded or live programming to users over a corresponding plurality of television channels (Ullrich, col. 3, ll. 43-49, col. 3, l. 66 to col. 4, l. 5 and FIG. 2). The Ullrich system also includes promotional video players 18 that provide a

promotional channel over which program previews are continuously broadcast and displayed to users in an order defined by master scheduling computer 15 (i.e., the order in which the program previews are displayed is not controlled by the user) (Ullrich, col. 3, ll. 15-23, col. 4, l. 51 to col. 5, l. 3 and FIG. 2). When any one or more of program video players 17 are not providing the pre-recorded or live programming (e.g., the one or more program video players 17 are rewinding their respective pre-recorded video programming), the program previews from the promotional channel can also be broadcast and displayed on the television channels corresponding to the one or more program video players 17 (Ullrich, col. 5, ll. 25-30). The Ullrich system also refers to using character generator 22 to provide a text menu representing a program schedule to users via cable headend 12 (Ullrich, col. 5, ll. 4-13).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 2 and 8 of the present application are allowable over Ullrich at least because Ullrich fails to show or suggest applicants' claimed feature of "allowing a viewer to select a television program listing from . . . [a] television program guide [displayed on a display]." In particular, Ullrich does not show or suggest that program schedule information

displayed in the Ullrich text menu can be selected.
Therefore, if while viewing the Ullrich text menu a user
decides to watch the Ullrich promotional channel, the user
cannot tune to the promotional channel by selecting a program
listing from the Ullrich text menu. Presumably, the user
must instead manually enter the channel number of the
promotional channel (e.g., channel 17) by, for example,
pressing buttons corresponding to that number on a remote
control.

Independent claims 2 and 8 are allowable over
Ullrich for at least the additional, independent reason that
Ullrich fails to show or suggest applicants' claimed feature
of "displaying a video clip corresponding to the selected
television program listing . . . upon selection of the
television program listing from the display" (emphasis
added). In particular, as described above, a user of the
Ullrich system does not control which program preview is
displayed. Rather, the Ullrich system displays a plurality
of program previews continuously in a pre-defined order
(i.e., in an order defined for the user by master scheduling
computer 20).

Accordingly, independent claims 2 and 8 of the
present application are allowable over Ullrich. Claims 3-7

and 9-13 depend from independent claims 2 and 8. Therefore, claims 3-7 and 9-13 are allowable over Ullrich for at least the reasons that independent claims 2 and 8 are allowable over Ullrich.*

Applicants' Effective Priority Date for New Claims 2-13

The Examiner acknowledged that claims 2-7 in the parent application were entitled to the May 27, 1993 priority date of the '666 application (see p. 2, ll. 1-10 of the September 24, 2002 Office Action and p. 2, ll. 1-3 of the October 6, 2003 Office Action in the parent application). Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 2-13 in the present application are also entitled to the May 27, 1993 priority date. In particular, the subject matter of new claims 2-13 is disclosed by the '666 application as follows:

Claims 2 and 8 of the present application	'666 application
A system/method for displaying a video clip for a television program upon viewer selection of a corresponding television program listing from a television program guide displayed on a display screen	A television program guide (FIG. 50), which includes video clips of programs in the guide, is displayed in display screen 50a (FIG. 1). As a viewer moves a cursor on the display screen, the video clip displayed on the screen changes accordingly to the match the selected highlighted program listing.

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* Dependent claims 3-7 and 9-13 contain additional patentable features. Applicants reserve the right to address these features at a later stage if necessary.

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displaying the television program guide on the display screen;	The television program guide is displayed on screen 50a of video display 50 (p. 123, ll. 6-16).
allowing a viewer to select a television program listing from the television program guide; and	A viewer controls the position of a cursor on the program guide using buttons 1305 (FIG. 11) on the remote control. The microprocessor controller tracks the cursor position and correlates it to the associated program listing in the guide (p. 122, ll. 17-25).
displaying a video clip corresponding to the selected television program listing on the display screen upon selection of the television program listing from the television program guide.	VCR control logic 21 recovers video clips (p. 124, ll. 21-23) from cassette 40 when the cursor is used to select one of the program listings in the program guide (FIG. 51)
Claims 3 and 9 of the present application	'666 application
The system/method of claim 2/8 further comprising displaying a written description corresponding to the selected television program listing.	The program guide includes information for the title and descriptions of the video clips displayed in cells arranged in a grid pattern on the screen (p. 121, ll. 27-30 and p. 120, ll. 31-36).
Claims 4 and 10 of the present application	'666 application
The system/method of claim 2/8 further comprising sequencing through time slots in the television program guide.	A viewer can move the cursor, using buttons 1305 (FIG. 11) through the guide to highlight the listings of one of the television programs in the guide (p. 124, ll. 14-25).
Claims 5 and 11 of the present application	'666 application
The system/method of claim 2/8 wherein allowing a user to select a television program listing from the television program guide comprises allowing the user to position an on-screen cursor on the television program listing.	A viewer controls the position of a cursor on the program guide using buttons 1305 (FIG. 11) on the remote control. The microprocessor controller tracks the cursor position and correlates it to the associated program listing in the guide (p. 122, ll. 17-25).
Claims 6 and 12 of the present application	'666 application
The system/method of claim 2/8 comprising retrieving the video clip corresponding to the selected television program listing upon selection of the television program listing from the television program guide.	To retrieve a video clip corresponding to a selected listing from the guide, a VCR reads the start address of the clip, advances a tape to the start address of the clip and plays the clip (p. 124, ll. 17-23).

Claims 7 and 13 of the present application	'666 application
The system/method of claim 2/8 wherein displaying the television program guide comprises displaying the television program guide comprising a plurality of television program listings.	The directory of FIG. 49 includes schedule information such as title and time for each of a plurality of video sections (p. 121, ll. 25-30).

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request a prompt and favorable action.

Respectfully submitted,
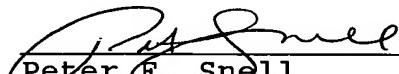
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